

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01547 262143Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /039 W
-----036950 270602Z /14

R 261726Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5245
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01547

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GW, UR
SUBJECT: GENSCHER ON BREZHNEV VISIT AND SOVIET
LEADERSHIP

REFS: (A) BONN 01411; (B) MOSCOW 1212

1. DURING MY CALL ON HIM TODAY, FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER STATED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN'S JANUARY
17 CALL ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD BEEN THE FIRST
NOTIFICATION BY MOSCOW THAT BREZHNEV WAS PLANNING TO
VISIT BONN FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 19 (REF B). AS HAD
VAN WELL (REF A), GENSCHER SAID THE FRG HAD NO NEW
INFORMATION ON BREZHNEV'S HEALTH.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM GENSCHER REGARDING
THE SITUATION WITHIN THE KREMLIN, I DREW ON REF B,
NOTING THAT THINGS APPEARED TO BE CALM AND LEADERSHIP
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ACTIVITIES SEEMED NORMAL. GENSCHER INTERJECTED TO SAY
THAT THIS APPARENT CALM COULD WELL MEAN A STAGNATION
IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. HE THEN CITED WHAT
HE PERCEIVED TO BE RATHER ODD SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN
WARNING GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO , WHO WAS VISITING
THE FRG, AGAINST TRAVELING TO BERLIN (SEPTEL). HE
OPINED THAT SOVIET DECISION MAKERS APPEARED TO BE

REPEATING THE MISTAKES OF THE FORMER COLONIAL POWERS.
THIS WAS INDICATIVE OF POOR JUDGMENT ON THEIR PART
AND WAS NOT A HEALTHY PORTENT FOR THE FUTURE.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 26 jan 1978

Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014

Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978BONN01547

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780040-0334

Format: TEL

From: BONN

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780121/aaaaarlc.tel

Line Count: 66

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 664909e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS

Reference: 78 BONN 1411, 78 MOSCOW 1212

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 20 may 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3712537

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: GENSCHER ON BREZHNEV VISIT AND SOVIET LEADERSHIP

TAGS: PGOV, GE, UR, (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH), (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)

To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/664909e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014